

CHAPTER 284

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 5393]

UNEMPLOYMENT—OLDER UNEMPLOYED AND LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED
ARE MADE A PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
DEPARTMENT SERVICES—ANNUAL REPORT ON RE-EMPLOYMENT OF THE
UNEMPLOYED

AN ACT Relating to unemployment; amending RCW 50.62.010, 50.62.020, and 50.62-.030; adding a new section to chapter 50.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 50.62 RCW; and creating a new section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 1, chapter 5, Laws of 1985 ex. sess. and RCW 50.62-.010 are each amended to read as follows:

The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The number of persons unemployed in the state is significantly above the national average.

(2) Persons who are unemployed represent a skilled resource to the economy and the quality of life for all persons in the state.

(3) There are jobs available in the state that can be filled by unemployed persons.

(4) A public labor exchange can appreciably expedite the employment of unemployed job seekers and filling employer vacancies thereby contributing to the overall health of the state and national economies.

(5) The Washington state job service of the employment security department has provided a proven service of assisting persons to find employment for the past fifty years.

(6) Expediting the reemployment of unemployment insurance claimants will reduce payment of claims drawn from the state unemployment insurance trust fund.

(7) Increased emphasis on assisting in the reemployment of claimants and monitoring claimants' work search efforts will positively impact employer tax rates resulting from the recently enacted experience rating legislation, chapter 205, Laws of 1984.

(8) Special employment service efforts are necessary to adequately serve agricultural employers who have unique needs in the type of workers, recruitment efforts, and the urgency of obtaining sufficient workers.

(9) Study and research of issues related to employment and unemployment provides economic information vital to the decision-making process.

(10) Older workers and the long-term unemployed experience greater difficulty finding new employment at wages comparable to their prelayoff earnings relative to all unemployment insurance claimants who return to work.

(11) After a layoff, older unemployed workers and the long-term unemployed workers fail to find unemployment insurance-covered employment

at a much higher rate than other groups of unemployment insurance claimants.

The legislature finds it necessary and in the public interest to establish a program of job service to assist persons drawing unemployment insurance claims to find employment, to provide employment assistance to the agricultural industry, and to conduct research into issues related to employment and unemployment.

Sec. 2. Section 2, chapter 5, Laws of 1985 ex. sess. and RCW 50.62-.020 are each amended to read as follows:

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Job service" means the employment assistance program of the employment security department;

(2) "Employment assistance" means services to unemployed persons focused on and measured by the obtaining of employment;

(3) "Labor exchange" means those activities which match labor supply and labor demand, including recruitment, screening, and referral of qualified workers to employers;

(4) "Special account of the administrative contingency fund" means that fund under RCW 50.24.014 established within the administrative contingency fund of the employment security department which provides revenue for the purposes of this chapter.

(5) "Continuous wage and benefit history" means an information and research system utilizing a longitudinal data base containing information on both employment and unemployment.

(6) "Long-term unemployed" means demographic groups of unemployment insurance claimants identified by the employment security department pursuant to section 4(1)(e) of this 1987 act which have the highest percentages of persons who have drawn at least fifteen weeks of unemployment insurance benefits or have the highest percentage of persons who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.

(7) "Older unemployed workers" means unemployment insurance claimants who are at least fifty years of age.

Sec. 3. Section 3, chapter 5, Laws of 1985 ex. sess. and RCW 50.62-.030 are each amended to read as follows:

Job service resources shall be used to assist with the reemployment of unemployed workers using the most efficient and effective means of service delivery. The job service program of the employment security department may undertake any program or activity for which funds are available and which furthers the goals of this chapter. These programs and activities ~~((may))~~ shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Giving older unemployed workers and the long-term unemployed the highest priority for all services made available under this section. The employment security department shall make the services provided under this

chapter available to the older unemployed workers and the long-term unemployed as soon as they register under the employment assistance program;

(2) Supplementing basic employment services, with special job search and claimant placement assistance designed to assist unemployment insurance claimants to obtain employment;

~~((2))~~ (3) Providing employment services, such as recruitment, screening, and referral of qualified workers, to agricultural areas where these services have in the past contributed to positive economic conditions for the agricultural industry;

~~((3))~~ (4) Providing otherwise unobtainable information and analysis to the legislature and program managers about issues related to employment and unemployment; and

~~((4))~~ (5) To research and consider the degree to which the employment security department can contract with private employment agencies, private for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in the fields of job placement, vocational counseling, career development, career change and employment preparation on a fee for service-performance basis.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 50.62 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Each year the employment security department shall publish an annual report on the unemployed based on research conducted on the continuous usage and benefit history and other sources that identifies:

(a) The demographic groups of unemployment insurance claimants that experience the greatest difficulty finding new employment with wages comparable to their prelayoff earnings;

(b) The demographic groups of unemployment insurance claimants that have the highest rates of failure to find unemployment insurance covered-employment after a layoff;

(c) The demographic, industry, and employment characteristics of the unemployment insurance claimant population most closely associated with the exhaustion of an unemployment claim;

(d) The demographic, industry, and employment characteristics of those locked-out workers who are eligible for unemployment compensation under RCW 50.20.090; and

(e) The demographic groups which are defined as the "long-term unemployed" for purposes of this chapter. This listing shall be updated each year.

(2) The employment security department shall continue to fund the continuing wage and benefit history at a level necessary to produce the annual report described in subsection (1) of this section.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 50.12 RCW to read as follows:

The employment security department shall submit an annual report to the legislature and the governor that includes but is not limited to:

(1) Identification and analysis of industries in the United States, Washington state, and local labor markets with high levels of seasonal, cyclical, and structural unemployment;

(2) The industries and local labor markets with plant closures and mass lay-offs and the number of affected workers;

(3) An analysis of the major causes of plant closures and mass lay-offs;

(4) The number of dislocated workers and persons who have exhausted their unemployment benefits, classified by industry, occupation, and local labor markets;

(5) The experience of the unemployed in their efforts to become reemployed. This should include research conducted on the continuous wage and benefit history;

(6) Five-year industry and occupational employment projections;

(7) Annual and hourly average wage rates by industry and occupation.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Section 5 of this act shall take effect if and only if the legislature provides funds sufficient for its implementation in an appropriations act adopted prior to July 1, 1987.

Passed the Senate April 23, 1987.

Passed the House April 17, 1987.

Approved by the Governor May 7, 1987.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 7, 1987.

CHAPTER 285

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 5094]

SALES TAX—CONSTRUCTION WORK—RETAIL SALE AND SALE AT RETAIL REDEFINED

AN ACT Relating to excise taxation; and amending RCW 82.04.050.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 1, chapter 8, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. as last amended by section 1, chapter 231, Laws of 1986 and RCW 82.04.050 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) "Sale at retail" or "retail sale" means every sale of tangible personal property (including articles produced, fabricated, or imprinted) to all persons irrespective of the nature of their business and including, among others, without limiting the scope hereof, persons who install, repair, clean, alter, improve, construct, or decorate real or personal property of or for consumers other than a sale to a person who (a) purchases for the purpose of resale as tangible personal property in the regular course of business without intervening use by such person, or (b) installs, repairs, cleans, alters, imprints, improves, constructs, or decorates real or personal property of